SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
15¢
BATMAN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
NO. 220
MAR.
I TRAPPED YOU, BATMAN! THIS BOOTH WILL SELF-DESTRUCT IN ONE SECOND!
BRRING
TELEPHONE
"THIS MURDER HAS BEEN PRE-RECORDED!"

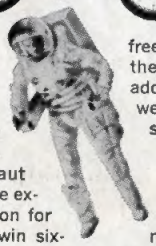
WIN

this 1970 Cessna 150 private plane and flying lessons, or EMPI "Imp" dune buggy, or Starcraft 15-foot power boat.

We're giving away all three in Revell's "Pick-Your-Own-Prize" Sweepstakes!

These aren't Revell models, gang—they're the real thing. Which go-go machine looks groovy to you? Think about it, then write "Cessna 150" or "EMPI Imp dune buggy" or "Starcraft 15' power boat" on an official Revell entry blank. Or on the back of an end panel (or reasonable facsimile) from any Revell kit. Your name automatically goes into the special drawing for that particular prize. "Pick-Your-Own-Prize" Sweepstakes is actually three great sweeps in one.

1,059 other wild prizes, including Yamahas and space suits. Four lucky guys will win high-powered Yamaha 100cc motorcycles. Wild. And five of you will get real astronaut space suits worn by stars of "Marooned," the exciting new Frankovich-Sturges film production for Columbia. Wow. Five hundred of you will win six-packs of Revell kits and 300 will divvy up Apollo space kits. And 250 will get two reserved-seat tickets to "Marooned."



Really easy to enter. Just send us your name, address and first-prize selection (plane, boat or dune buggy) on the back of an end panel from any Revell kit; or make a copy of the panel on a 3-by-5-inch piece of paper, printing the word "Revell" in block letters. Or go to your Revell dealer—he has a free, official entry blank for you. New Revell kits have them, too. You can even send us your name and address on a stamped, self-addressed envelope, and we'll send you an entry blank. If your blank has a secret message on it, you become an Instant Winner of a special mystery prize—and you're still eligible to win any of the other prizes, including one of the top three.

Enter our "Pick-Your-Own-Prize" Sweepstakes now and enter often. Your chances of winning get better each time.

Contest closes May 30, 1970. Winners will be selected after August 1, 1970. All entries become the property of Revell, Inc., and none can be acknowledged or returned. No purchase necessary to participate. Judges' decision final. Sweepstakes subject to local, state and federal laws and void wherever prohibited. Tax liability is responsibility of winners. No substitute prizes will be given nor will cash equivalents be paid. In accepting awards, winners grant Revell the right to publicize and promote their winning of awards. Revell employees, employees of Revell distributors, dealers or their immediate families are ineligible.

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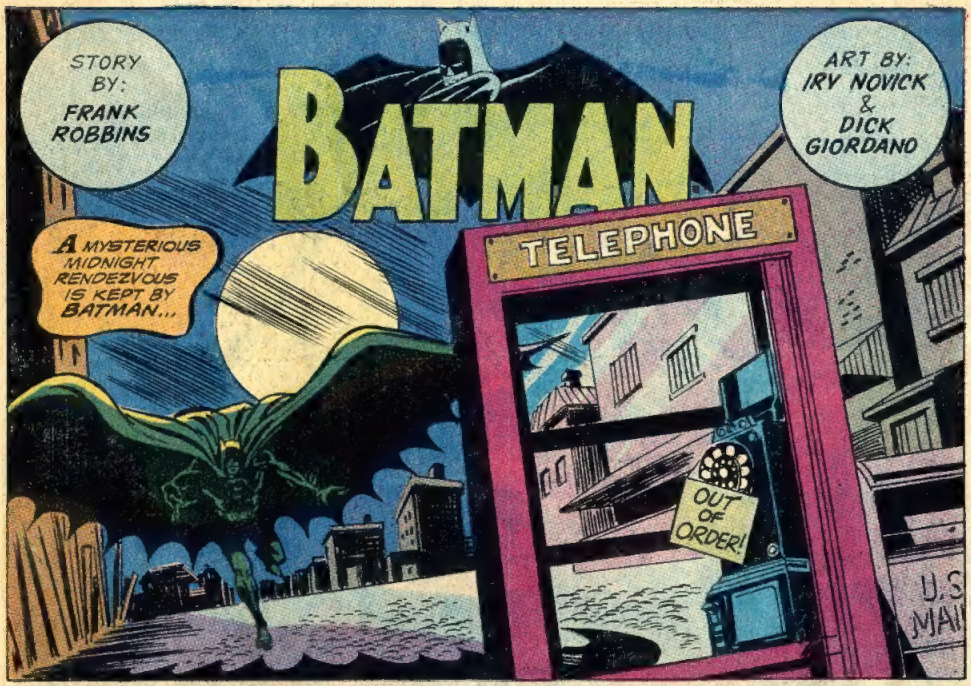

...AND AS THE TELEPHONE-BOOTH DOOR IS CLOSED...
ZZT... THIS IS A PRE-RECORDING! I-- ZACH NOVA-- KILLED TOM SLOANE!
BUT YOU'LL NEVER USE THIS VOLUNTARY CONFESSION AGAINST ME, BECAUSE...
OUT OF ORDER!

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A LETHAL SENTENCE OF DEATH THAT EVEN THE LIGHTNING-LIKE REFLEXES OF BATMAN CANNOT COPE WITH...
TELEPH
BRA-A-A-A-M!
A THUNDEROUS FINALE TO THE ALMOST CHARMED LIFE OF THE CAPED CRIME-CRUSADER OF GOTHAM CITY! A CONFESSION BY HIS OWN MURDERER... AND HIS OWN GALLANT LIFE... SNUFFED OUT IN ONE BRIEF, TRAGIC INSTANT! NOT A SHRED OF EVIDENCE LEFT... ONLY GRIM FRAGMENTS TO INFORM THE SHOCKED POPULACE THAT THEIR GREAT DEFENDER IS... DEAD! WHO WILL AVENGE HIM? WHO CAN?
"THIS MURDER HAS BEEN... PRE-RECORDED!"

A LADY TO SEE YOU, SIR! SHE DOESN'T HAVE AN APPOINTMENT, BUT...
...CLAIMS YOU OWE HER SOMETHING!
"TO TRACE THE EVENTS LEADING TO THAT FATAL LAST SECOND, WE MUST GO BACK A DAY--TO THE OFFICE OF MY OTHER SELF, BRUCE WAYNE..."
OH? WHAT'S HER NAME?
A MISS... MARLA MANNING!
THE FEATURE-WRITER OF THOSE "VICTIMS ANONYMOUS" ARTICLES! THE INSPIRATION FOR MY WAYNE FOUNDATION V.I.P.--VICTIMS INC. PROGRAM!
BY ALL MEANS, MISS ATKINS-- SEND HER RIGHT IN!
MISS MANNING--AT LONG LAST! I SURELY DO OWE YOU SOMETHING...
NOT UNLESS YOU WANT TO, MR. WAYNE-- I NEVER CALL A DEBT!
AND I NEVER CALL UNANNOUNCED-- UNLESS IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO USE A PHONE!
DANGEROUS? FOR YOU-- OR FOR ME?
DEFINITELY FOR ME-- POSSIBLY FOR YOU! IF YOU HELP ME...
3

YOU RECALL THE "V.A." CASE I RECENTLY WROTE ABOUT...THE SISTER OF THE YOUNG FILE-CLERK IN THE CITY CONTRACT-BIDS DEPARTMENT?
SANDRA SLOANE-- SHE CAME TO US FOR FINANCIAL AID AFTER HER BROTHER TOM--
--DID WHAT EVERY OTHER COMMUTER DOES BEFORE HE DRIVES TO WORK...
"...SWITCHED ON THE IGNITION..."
"...HIS LAST CONSCIOUS ACT!"
BLAM!
THE POLICE COULD TURN UP NO MOTIVATION FOR HIS MURDER-- NO PERSONAL ENEMIES-- NO TIES WITH THE UNDERWORLD-- NOTHING!
BUT WHY IS YOUR LIFE IN DANGER NOW, MARLA?
SOMETHING ABOUT THIS CASE TOUCHED ME-- I WANTED TO HELP... SO I DID A LITTLE LEG-WORK ON MY OWN!
DUG UP THIS OBSCURE ITEM WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE NO CONNECTION-- BUT...
"NOVA DEMOLITION CO. WINS URBAN-BLIGHT RAZING CONTRACT!!!
4

AND YOU FIGURED--"DEMOLITION" ADDS UP TO "BOMB-BLAST" OF A CAR?
I PLAYED A LONG-SHOT--HINTED IN MY FOLLOW-UP ARTICLE THAT "BIDDERS FOR A CERTAIN CITY-CONTRACT" MIGHT HAVE REASON TO WANT TOM SLOANE RAZED!
IT PAID OFF--WITH AN ANONYMOUS THREATENING PHONE-CALL! "LAY OFF... OR ELSE!"
I'VE BEEN AFRAID TO LIFT A RECEIVER OFF THE HOOK SINCE--FEARING IT MAY BE BOOBY-TRAPPED LIKE SLOANE'S IGNITION!
NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU CONTACTED ME DIRECT! BUT HOW CAN I HELP, MARLA?
YOU HAVE A CONFIDENTIAL INTERVIEW-FILE ON SANDRA SLOANE--PERHAPS SHE TOLD YOUR PEOPLE SOMETHING SHE'D TELL NO ONE ELSE?
SOME INADVERTENT CLUE ABOUT HER BROTHER'S ASSOCIATES--ACTIVITIES--ANYTHING!
LET'S CHECK THE FILES!
FILES
SLOANE, SANDRA
HERE'S HER FOLDER...
WHAT...? EMPTY EXCEPT FOR THIS NOTE!
LAY OFF... OR ELSE!
SOMEBODY--SECOND-GUESSED YOU, MARLA!
THIS IS BEYOND US NOW--IT'S A JOB FOR BATMAN! GET BACK HOME AND STAY THERE--TILL HE CONTACTS YOU!

MARLA PLAYED A LONG-SHOT--AND BROUGHT HOME A WINNER!
HER BLIND STAB GOT TO SOMEONE--ENOUGH TO SMOKE HIM OUT OF HIDING...
SOMETHING THE MURDER-VICTIM'S SISTER SAID IN HER AID-INTERVIEW...
...WAS POTENT ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM STEAL HER FILE! SO, FIRST THING ON BATMAN'S AGENDA...
...IS TO RE-INTERVIEW SANDRA SLOANE--PERSONALLY! BEFORE THAT...
BATMAN HERE, COMMISSIONER GORDON! CAN YOU GIVE ME THE NAMES OF THE OTHER FIRMS WHO BID ON THE URBAN-BLIGHT RAZING-CONTRACT--BESIDES THE WINNER, NOVA DEMOLITION CO.?
TWO OTHERS, YOU SAY? THANKS!
SO WE'VE GOT THREE POSSIBLE SUSPECTS! BUT WHICH WANTED TOM SLOANE "RAZED"--THE WINNER OR THE LOSERS?
"THAT NIGHT I PAID A VISIT TO A MOURNING SISTER--AS BATMAN..."
NOCK-NOCK!
I MUST TALK TO YOU, MISS SLOANE!
GO AWAY, BATMAN! I'VE ALREADY TOLD ALL I INTEND TO TELL--TO ANYBODY!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

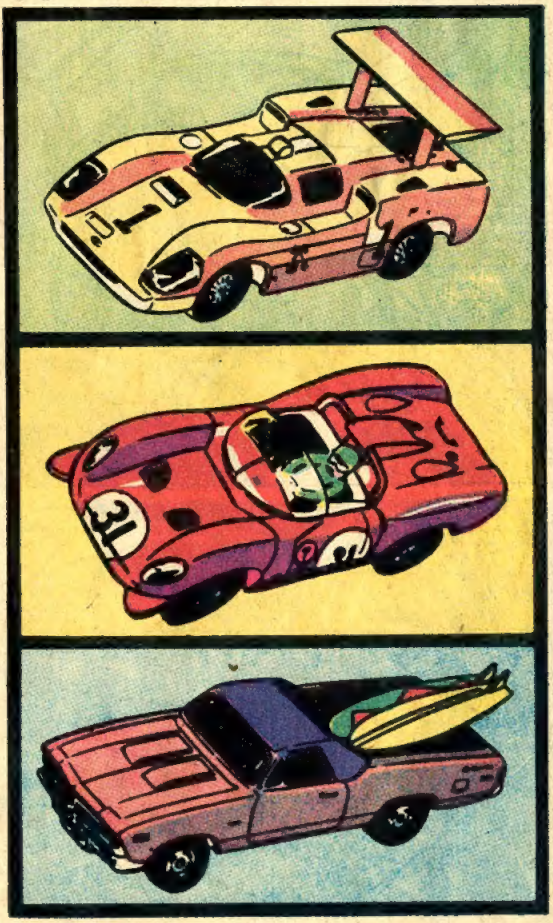
CHAPARRAL 2F. Plus 2

- Would you like a hot new car for your Aurora Model Motoring set?
- Or a new fun car?
- It doesn't matter. Aurora has both kinds.
- See them at your Model Motoring store.
- And drive the most talked about cars in years.
- For new Model Motoring enjoyment.

Chaparral 2F.
Leader at LeMans, Nurenbergring, and Targa Florio. The stunning white Chaparral 2F led the American invasion of European race tracks last year. Best known for "bringing the wing to Europe." It tops the list of most-wanted Model Motoring cars.

Alfa Romeo 33.
This stylish speedster took on the world at Sebring. And led the pack through the first laps with only a two-litre V-8. Its different rear-deck air scoop and super-sleek lines make it easy to spot. In blood red, it's an exciting addition to every Model Motoring collection.

El Camino.
It's the groovy new favorite of California's beach set. Over half the surfers have made the switch already. And Aurora's right with them. Why not be, too?



AURORA MODEL MOTORING

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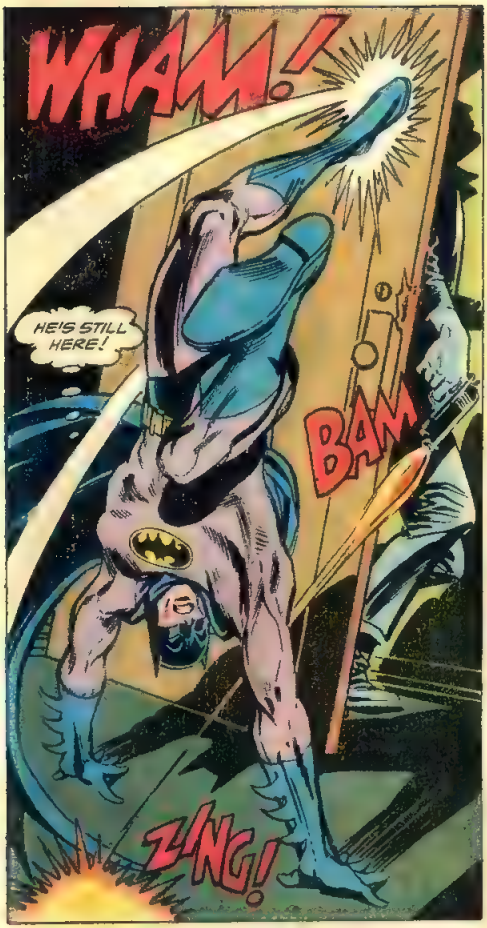
Aurora products are manufactured entirely in the U.S. for distribution in America; in Canada for the Commonwealth nations; and in Holland for Europe and Africa.

IF I DON'T TALK TO YOU NOW, SOMEONE ELSE MIGHT--LATER!
SANDRA! DO YOU WANT YOUR BROTHER'S DEATH TO GO UNPUNISHED?
I--I KNOW NOTHING THAT COULD LEAD TO HIS--MURDERER!
OPEN UP--OR I'LL...
"I KNEW SHE KNEW SOMETHING... ELSE WHY WAS HER INTERVIEW-CARD STOLEN? SUDDENLY IT DAWNED ON ME...WAS I TOO LATE?"
KA-RA-ASH!
:OH-H!:
HE HAD COME HERE--TO SILENCE HER!
"SOMETHING IN SANDRA'S EYES WARNED ME..."
7



CAN YOU BELIEVE ?

WONDER WOMAN and JERRY LEWIS-- TOGETHER!
ON SALE JAN. 20

OUR VALENTINE FOR YOU!

THIS SWEETHEART

GIANT

STARRING

SUPERGIRL!

ON SALE JAN. 13TH

GIANT
MAY
25¢
The FLASH
featuring SENSATIONAL SUPER-SPEED STUNTS OF THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE!
CIRCLING THE EARTH 6 TIMES IN 1 SECOND!
SPLITTING INTO 3 FLASHES!
APPEARING AMIDST A CROWD!
HURLING A CRIMINAL INTO THE FUTURE!

AND HERE'S YOUR SNEAK PREVIEW OF OUR NEXT SENSATIONAL GIANT!

BETTER RESERVE YOUR COPY NOW AT YOUR FAVORITE NEWSSTAND!

ON SALE FEB. 12TH

KLUMP!
WHAM!
"BEFORE I COULD RECOVER FROM THE MASSIVE IMPACT, HE WAS OUT AND AWAY..."
WHO IS HE?
I--I CAN'T TELL YOU!
"I KNEW THEN, IT WAS FRUITLESS TO PURSUE IT FURTHER...HE'D GOTTEN TO HER ALL RIGHT! OH, HAD HE EVER! TERRORIZED... RIGHT UP TO HER LOVELY EYEBALLS!"
9

I STILL HAVE THREE "POSSIBLES" TO TRACK DOWN! NUMBER ONE--THE NOVA DEMOLITION CO. WHO WON THE SEALED-BID DEMOLITION PLUM WITH THE LOWEST BID! COULD THEY HAVE KNOWN THE COMPETING FIGURES--BEFOREHAND?
NOVA DEMOLITION CO.
ONLY IF THEY HAD INSIDE DOPE! FROM TOM SLOANE? THEN WHY KILL HIM?
MAYBE A LITTLE SECOND-STORY WORK HERE WILL PROVIDE A CLUE...
USUAL ACCOUNT BOOKS--PETTY CASH--
HMM, WHAT'S THIS?
Z. NOVA PRES.
VIETNAM-WAR DISCHARGE PAPERS FOR ZACHARY NOVA... SGT. 1ST CLASS, ENGINEER BATTALION... DEMOLITION!
NOVA, PRESIDENT OF THIS COMPANY--A FORMER ARMY DEMOLITION EXPERT! IF ANYONE KNEW THE TRICKS OF THE BOOBY-TRAP TRADE...
...I WOULD, EH, BATMAN?
TCHOK!
10

"FOR A SPLIT SECOND, I SAW ALL SORTS OF FANCY FIREWORKS... PINWHEELS... ROMAN CANDLES... BUT I GRAPPLED!"
HONK
DEMOLITIONS AIN'T THE ONLY THING I LEARNED IN BASIC!
AND I'VE GOT A MIGHTY SHORT-FUSE FOR A TEMPER!
YOU'RE NOT IN BOOT-TRAINING NOW, SOLDIER!
CLOMP!

AND MY TRAINING WAS REAL BASIC--IN STREET-FIGHTING!
KPOW!
NOW LET'S SEE WHO I'VE BEEN HASSLING WITH--AS IF I CAN'T GUESS!
YOU MUST BE--NOVA!
T.N.T.
T.N.T.
T.N.T.
T.N.T.
OKAY, BATMAN--YOU GET THE CIGAR! NOW YOU WANNA TRY FOR THE JACKPOT?
12

SO IT'S A STAND-OFF--UNLESS YOU WANT YOUR FAMILY COLLECTING YOUR G.I. INSURANCE!
I JUST DON'T LIKE BEING ON THE RECEIVING END, BATMAN--SO LAY OFF!
LAY OFF--? THAT SOUNDS FAMILIAR!
YOU JUST LIKE DISHING IT OUT, EH, NOVA? EVER HEARD OF A GUY WHO TOOK IT--LIKE TOM SLOANE?
NEVER HEARD OF NOTHING! I DON'T GO POKING MY SCHNOZZ IN THINGS THAT DON'T CONCERN ME! LIKE YOU DO...
WHICH IS WHY I GOT UP-TIGHT IN THE FIRST PLACE--YOU "BREAKING AND ENTERING"!
I RUN A LEGIT BUSINESS! GOT HALF A MIND TO CALL THE POLICE...
BUT YOU WOULDN'T--WOULD YOU, NOVA?
T.N.T.
YEAH? NOT BECAUSE I GOT ANYTHING TO HIDE, HEAR? JUST BECAUSE YOU GOT A GOOD REP--HATE TO SPOIL IT FOR YOU!
13

"AND THEN I MADE AN EXPECTED VISIT..."
BATMAN! SO BRUCE WAYNE CONTACTED YOU--
RIGHT, MARLA-- I'M CARRYING THE BALL NOW! WHEN DOES YOUR ARTICLE FOR TOMORROW GO TO BED?
WRITING THE LAST WORDS NOW--A COPY BOY IS ON HIS WAY HERE FROM THE PAPER! WHY?
I WANT YOU TO FINISH OFF WITH: "BY MY NEXT COLUMN I WILL HAVE FINAL EVIDENCE ON THE KILLER OF TOM SLOANE!"
BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY SUCH THING, BATMAN! AND IF I DID-- IT WOULD BE LIKE SIGNING A BY-LINE TO DEATH! MINE!
PRECISELY! I'M ALMOST SURE OF THE KILLER-- BUT HE'S CUTE!
THE ONLY WAY I CAN NAIL HIM IS TO FORCE HIS HAND--
--BY SETTING ME UP AS A TARGET TO CATCH HIM RED-HANDED! W-WELL-- JUST MAKE SURE THEY'RE NOT RED WITH MY BLOOD!
THIS WILL DO IT!
YOU CAN EXPECT ANOTHER "CRANK" CALL TOMORROW, MARLA... FROM THE KILLER...
I KNOW HIS STYLE NOW--HE WON'T HIT YOU HERE! HE LIKES TO OPERATE LONG-DISTANCE WITH A SHORT-FUSE!
CALL ME WHEN YOU HEAR-- AT THIS PRIVATE UNLISTED NUMBER!
14

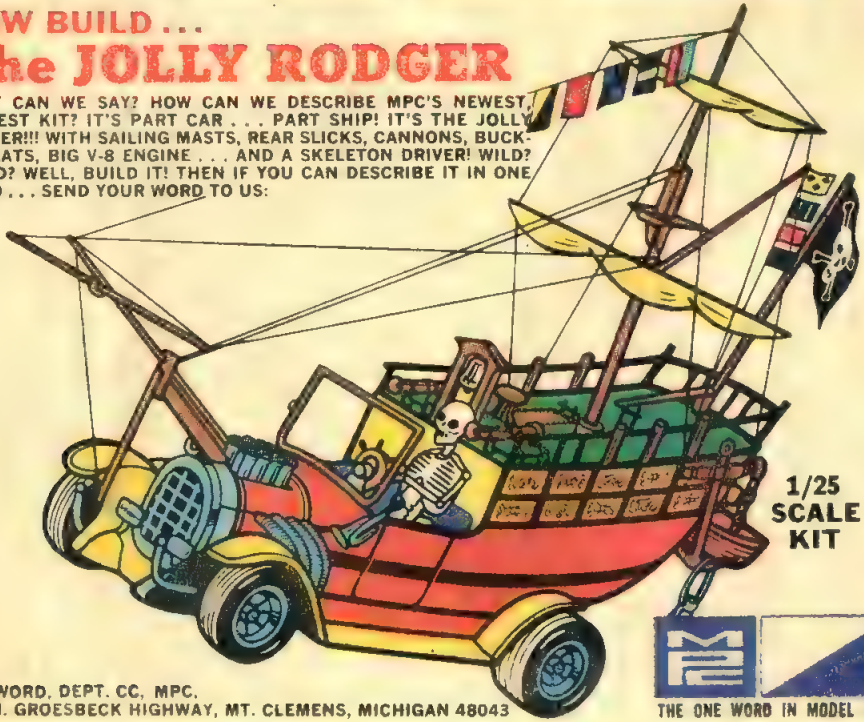
"AS I'D PREDICTED... NOT LONG AFTER THE MORNING NEWS EDITION..."
WHO IS THIS?
A FRIENDLY INFORMANT, MISS MANNING! I READ YOUR LATEST "BLAST"--AND YOU'RE FAKING IT!

YOU HEARD RIGHT! YOU CAN'T HAVE THAT INFO--'CAUSE ONLY I HAVE IT! BUT...
I'M--WHAT?
...IF YOU ANTE UP FIVE GRAND--IT'S YOURS!
T.N.
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.
15

NOW BUILD...

The JOLLY RODGER

WHAT CAN WE SAY? HOW CAN WE DESCRIBE MPC'S NEWEST, WILDEST KIT? IT'S PART CAR . . . PART SHIP! IT'S THE JOLLY RODGER!!! WITH SAILING MASTS, REAR SLICKS, CANNONS, BUCKET SEATS, BIG V-8 ENGINE . . . AND A SKELETON DRIVER! WILD? WEIRD? WELL, BUILD IT! THEN IF YOU CAN DESCRIBE IT IN ONE WORD . . . SEND YOUR WORD TO US:



1/25 SCALE KIT

ONE WORD, DEPT. CC, MPC,
126 N. GROESBECK HIGHWAY, MT. CLEMENS, MICHIGAN 48043

THE ONE WORD IN MODEL KITS

LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE S-358

Dear Editor:

After reading "Angel—Or Devil" in *Batman* #216, I just had to put in my two cents' worth—or rather my two *"Pennyworths"!*

On its merits as a detective story alone, "Angel" rates a very good to excellent. To regular *Batman* readers, however, it has a much greater significance. In 24 pages, I would venture to say, more has been added to Alfred's character than 26 years of stories... so much, in fact, that I was prompted to reread his origin story in *Batman* #16, exactly 200 issues ago! In that story, Alfred mentioned that he was a former actor and amateur detective; Frank Robbins did an excellent job of incorporating these elements into this issue.

Perhaps the best way to describe this story is that it served to *humanize* all involved. Thus we have Dick Grayson's mature appreciation of Shakespeare mixed with his boyish crush on Daphne. Then there is Daphne herself, torn between love of her father and her uncle Alfred. We also have *Batman's* very human dilemma as he runs into one dead end after another, trying to find just what she is up to.

It is Alfred, however, who is humanized the most. From his concern that he has not been notified of his brother's coming, to his suspicion over Daphne's candle drippings, to the realization of his suspicions, to his senseless attempt to save his brother Wilfred, and to the final forgiving of Daphne, Alfred takes one new dimension after another. Gone is the butler who should be seen and not heard. In his place we have a proud gentlemen with an equally proud brother and niece. We have a servant and friend of *Batman*, who after 26-plus years of service has understandably absorbed some of his detective quality. We have a man who puts loyalty to Bruce Wayne above his own life. And finally, we have a warm-hearted person who can forgive as well as condemn!

—PETER G. HAAG, Trenton, N.J.

(The role enacted by Alfred in "Angel—Or Devil" was enthusiastically applauded by our readers. And there was quite a buzz from the audience about the revelation of the good butler's Pennyworth surname. But more about this after a pause for a couple of more letters.—Editor)

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

At last! AT LAST! After all these years, Alfred does have a last name! But...PENNYWORTH—?! Who thought up that name...*Spiro Agnew?*

—CHARLES CRUZ, Bronx, N.Y.

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

From first page to last, *Batman* #216 was an issue well worth thirty minutes of my time. And it's Frank Robbins, naturally, who did it all. Characterization plays a big part in Frank's stuff, and it was sure there!

Everyone wanted an in-depth review of Alfred's family and background. We're certainly on the right road. And a last name for him has been firmly established. One reader once revealed that an old story listed Alfred's last name as Beagle. I'm inclined to agree with you that Pennyworth is a bit more pleasing to the ear, and certainly more dignified.

—GARY SKINNER, Columbus, Ohio

(Our research through the Batman *files could uncover no definitive last name for Alfred. And since "Angel-Or Devil" demanded it, we were inspired to adopt the Alfred Pennyworth name created by Whitney Ellsworth for the* Batman *syndicate strip. Long-time DC fans will recall Whit as our former editor-in-chief and if Pennyworth is good enough for him...!*—Editor)

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

Frank Robbins turned out an excellent, dramatic story in the November *Batman*. Being an English major in college, I was delighted to see the story dealing with Romeo and Juliet and Shakesperean actors. The most dramatic scene in the story, I felt, was the confrontation between Alfred and Daphne in Act II. Family pride and personal loyalty were manifest in Alfred's brave stance for Bruce Wayne and Daphne's nearly blind determination to obtain the Shakespeare-folio in order to save her father.

Most significant was the insight we got into Alfred's British heritage and his "family's foolish trait". We saw more of his own personality and actions as an individual. As a matter of fact, what made the story so good was that Alfred, as well as *Batman*, Dick Grayson, and Daphne were portrayed as human beings. We saw them not as superficial characters but as people.

The artwork of Novick and Giordano complemented the story beautifully. One could see the "British" in Alfred; the beauty and confusion in Daphne; a curious mood in *Batman:* the casual humor of Bruce Wayne and Dick Grayson. The dramatic interpretation of Robbins' story was so integrated in it that "Angel—Or Devil" truly becomes what the comic-magazine business is and should be all about—the creative combination of art and story-line to form a new type of art, worthy of its own class. It is why you top your competitors and have my vote of confidence ...because you are striving to make comic magazines much, much more than just trivial action adventures.

—M.D. KELLY, Oak Harbor, Wash.

(From a vote of confidence we switch to one of censure.—Editor)

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

What a let-down. After last issue's "Call Me Master", I thought surely you'd keep up the trend, but you didn't. "Angel—Or Devil" was, indeed, a let-down! Not only did it not have the mystery of the previous story but it also lacked the suspense and intrigue. To put it bluntly, it just didn't keep me interested.

—MIKE MALLORY, Boggstown, Ind.

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

I have written you many letters before, some complimentary, and some not. When I write about "Angel—Or Devil"! I have to be complimentary. The story was fascinating and well written.

The idea of Dick Grayson having a cold really pleased me. For one, because I am always catching summer, winter, spring and fall colds, and also because it made Dick so much more human.

One part of the story gave me a substantial amount of horror, though. Dick, while under the influence of the intoxicating mixture of chicken soup and aspirin, slowly but steadily opened the bust of Shakespeare. I feared the worst: that the secret of the *Batcave* would be revealed. My sigh of relief was loud and long when Dick seemed not to be drugged at all, but in his normal capacity, and saved the day at the end. This scene was an example of the all-over perfection and literary and artistic quality of the entire story.

- ALICE IRMA HERMAN, Richmond Hill, N.Y.

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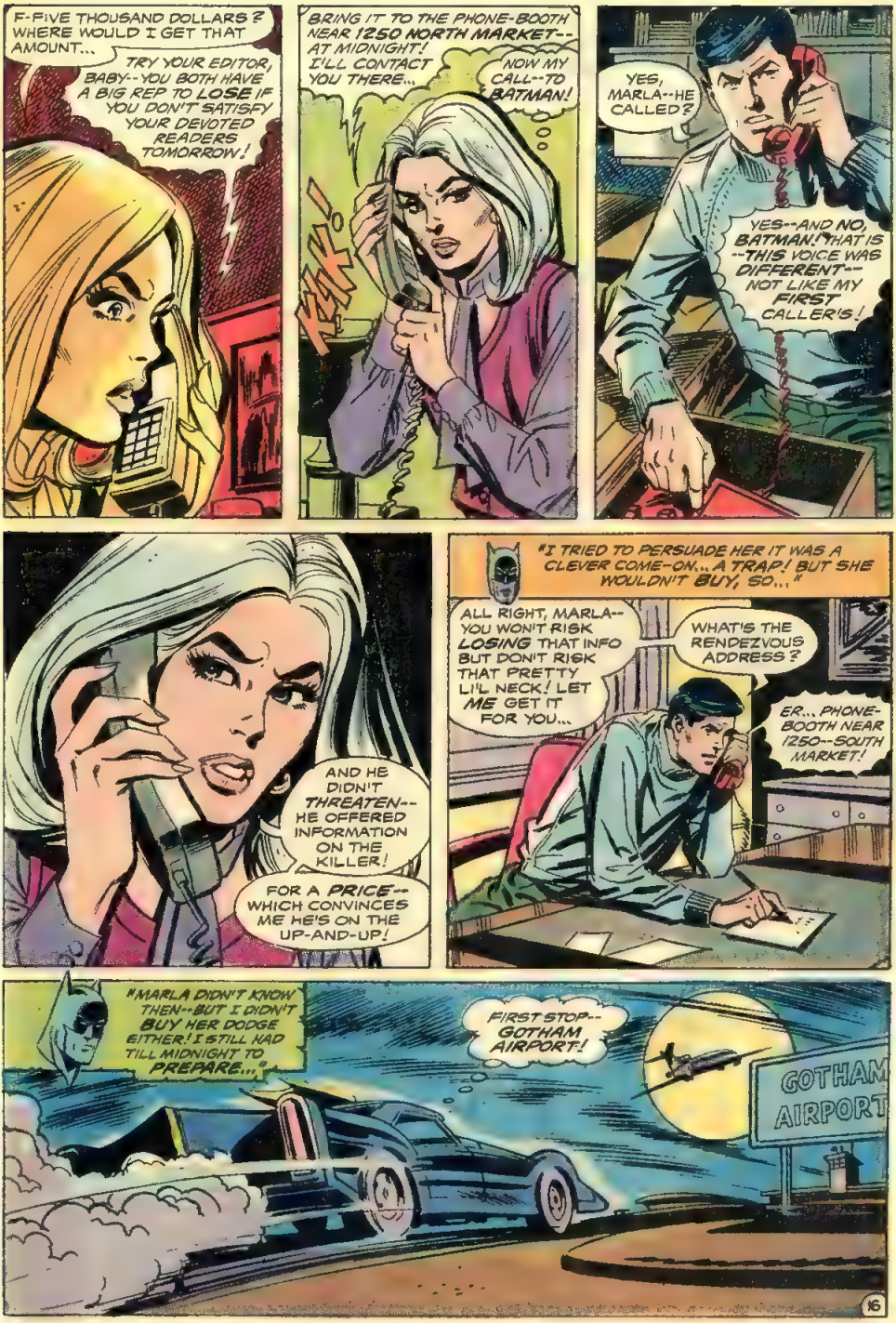
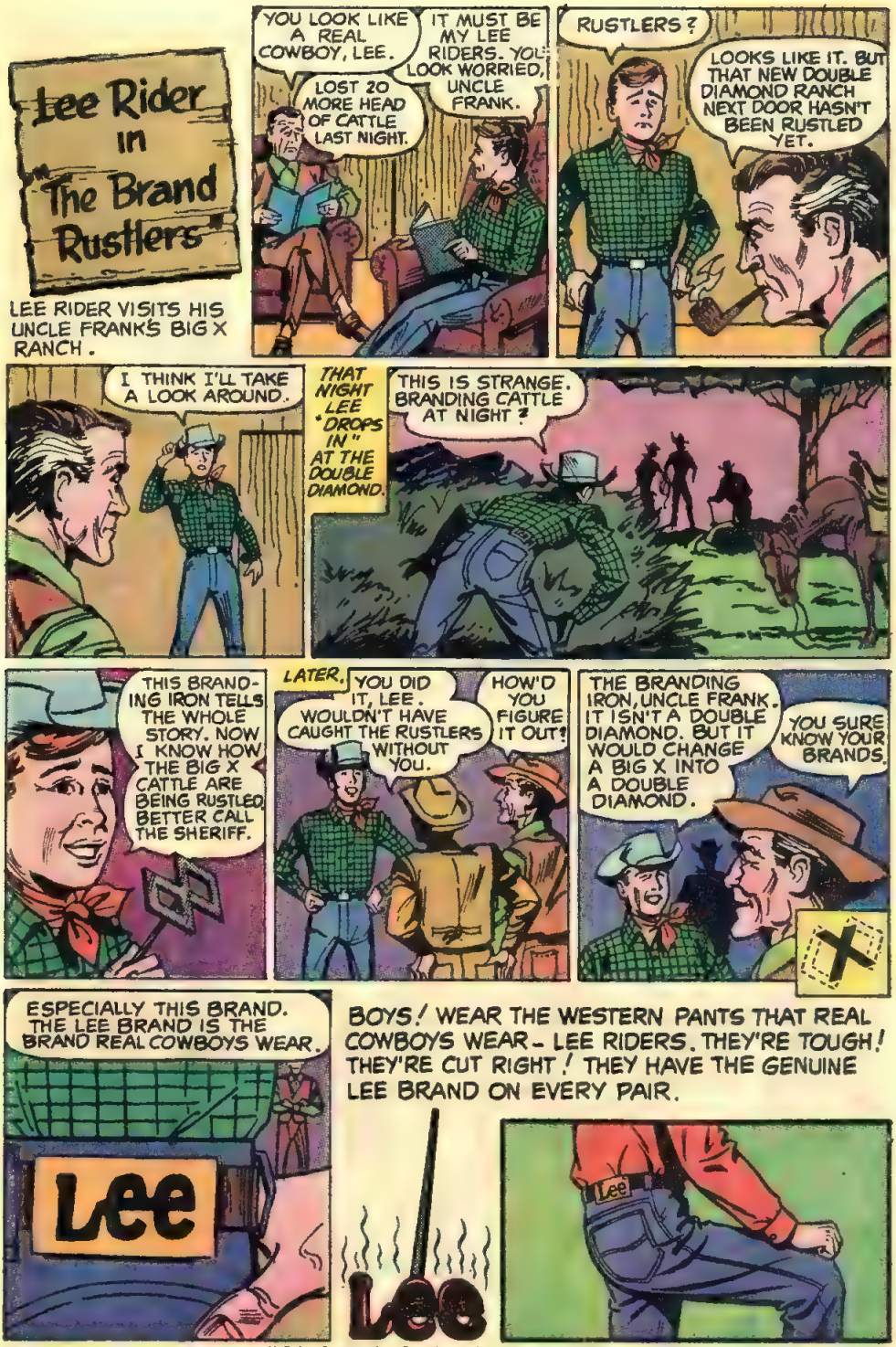

F-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS? WHERE WOULD I GET THAT AMOUNT...
TRY YOUR EDITOR, BABY--YOU BOTH HAVE A BIG REP TO LOSE IF YOU DON'T SATISFY YOUR DEVOTED READERS TOMORROW!
BRING IT TO THE PHONE-BOOTH NEAR 1250 NORTH MARKET--AT MIDNIGHT! I'LL CONTACT YOU THERE...
NOW MY CALL--TO BATMAN!
KIK!
YES, MARLA--HE CALLED?
YES--AND NO, BATMAN! THAT IS --THIS VOICE WAS DIFFERENT-- NOT LIKE MY FIRST CALLER'S!
AND HE DIDN'T THREATEN-- HE OFFERED INFORMATION ON THE KILLER!
FOR A PRICE-- WHICH CONVINCES ME HE'S ON THE UP-AND-UP!
"I TRIED TO PERSUADE HER IT WAS A CLEVER COME-ON... A TRAP! BUT SHE WOULDN'T BUY, SO..."
ALL RIGHT, MARLA-- YOU WON'T RISK LOSING THAT INFO BUT DON'T RISK THAT PRETTY LI'L NECK! LET ME GET IT FOR YOU...
WHAT'S THE RENDEZVOUS ADDRESS?
ER... PHONE-BOOTH NEAR 1250--SOUTH MARKET!
"MARLA DIDN'T KNOW THEN--BUT I DIDN'T BUY HER DODGE EITHER! I STILL HAD TILL MIDNIGHT TO PREPARE..."
FIRST STOP-- GOTHAM AIRPORT!
GOTHAM AIRPORT

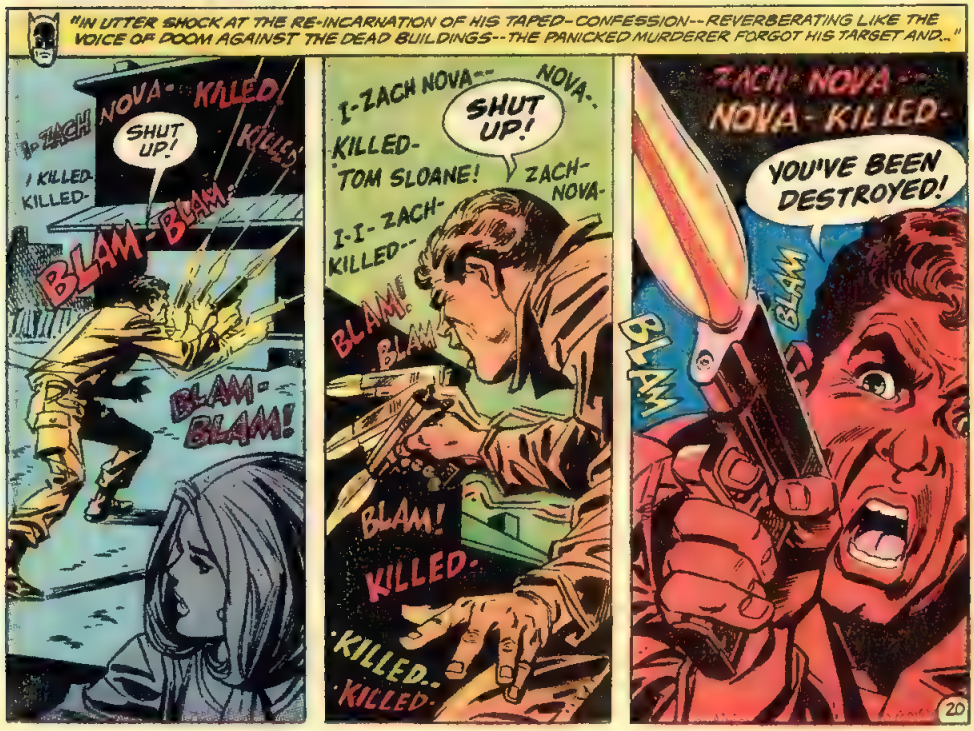
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED! IT'S 11:30! WONDER WHAT MARLA IS UP TO?
1250 NORTH MARKET, DRIVER!
I HATE TO DO THIS TO BATMAN-- BUT IF HE SHOWED UP, IT WOULD SCARE MY INFORMANT OFF! AND MY CAREER IS ON THE LINE!
TAXI
YOU SURE YOU WANT THIS ADDRESS, LADY? EVERYTHING'S SHUT DOWN TIGHT!
YES, I'M SURE!
ONLY TWO MINUTES TO GO! BETTER HEAD FOR THE BOOTH...
"AS THE APPREHENSIVE BUT DETERMINED GIRL MOVED INTO THE DEEP SHADOWS..."
UMPH?!

B-BATMAN! BUT--HOW?!
YOU GAVE ME THE WRONG ADDRESS, MARLA! A STREET NUMBER THAT DOESN'T EXIST!
SO FROM "1250 SOUTH MARKET" I WENT TO 1250 NORTH--
OH...
NOW YOU STAY UNDER COVER--NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS!
TELEPHONE
U.S. MAIL
"THEN AS YOU'VE SEEN--AS SOON AS THE PHONE DOOR CLOSED, THE LIGHT WENT ON...THE TAPE MESSAGE STARTED..."
I--ZACH NOVA--KILLED TOM SLOANE! BUT YOU'LL NEVER USE THIS VOLUNTARY CONFESSION AGAINST ME, BECAUSE...
TELEPHONE
U.S. MAIL
18

BLA-AM
B. JONE
"MY PLOY MIGHT HAVE WORKED--BUT I HADN'T COUNTED ON THE FEMININE MYSTIQUE... A WOMEN'S CURIOSITY!"
UGH-H-- NO-- NO! BATMAN WAS RIGHT ABOUT THAT TRAP! HE SACRIFICED HIMSELF FOR ME!
BUT HE DIDN'T SUCCEED, MISS MANNING! BECAUSE NOW--I'VE GOT TO KILL YOU, PERSONALLY!
?!!
CAN'T LEAVE ANYONE ALIVE WHO MIGHT'VE OVERHEARD THAT TAPED CONFESSION!
ZACHARY NOVA...?!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING...
19


Lee Rider in The Brand Rustlers
LEE RIDER VISITS HIS UNCLE FRANK'S BIG X RANCH.
YOU LOOK LIKE A REAL COWBOY, LEE.
IT MUST BE MY LEE RIDERS. YOU LOOK WORRIED, UNCLE FRANK.
LOST 20 MORE HEAD OF CATTLE LAST NIGHT.
RUSTLERS?
LOOKS LIKE IT. BUT THAT NEW DOUBLE DIAMOND RANCH NEXT DOOR HASN'T BEEN RUSTLED YET.
I THINK I'LL TAKE A LOOK AROUND.
THAT NIGHT LEE "DROPS IN" AT THE DOUBLE DIAMOND.
THIS IS STRANGE. BRANDING CATTLE AT NIGHT?
THIS BRANDING IRON TELLS THE WHOLE STORY. NOW I KNOW HOW THE BIG X CATTLE ARE BEING RUSTLED. BETTER CALL THE SHERIFF.
LATER.
YOU DID IT, LEE. WOULDN'T HAVE CAUGHT THE RUSTLERS WITHOUT YOU.
HOW'D YOU FIGURE IT OUT?
THE BRANDING IRON, UNCLE FRANK. IT ISN'T A DOUBLE DIAMOND. BUT IT WOULD CHANGE A BIG X INTO A DOUBLE DIAMOND.
YOU SURE KNOW YOUR BRANDS.
X
ESPECIALLY THIS BRAND. THE LEE BRAND IS THE BRAND REAL COWBOYS WEAR.
Lee
BOYS! WEAR THE WESTERN PANTS THAT REAL COWBOYS WEAR - LEE RIDERS. THEY'RE TOUGH! THEY'RE CUT RIGHT! THEY HAVE THE GENUINE LEE BRAND ON EVERY PAIR.
Lee
Lee
H. D. Lee Company, Inc., Dept. A, P. O. Box 440, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66201. ALSO AVAILABLE IN CANADA.

"SUDDENLY... OUT OF NOWHERE... AND EVERYWHERE NOVA'S VOICE RICOCHETED OFF THE BLANKLY-STARING SHUTTERED WINDOWS!"
I--ZACH NOVA--
KILLED TOM SLOANE!
I-I-I--
ZACH NOVA-
NOVA--
NOVA-
NOVA-
NOVA-
KILLED-
KILLED-
KILLED-
W-WHAT...?!
H-HOW...


"IN UTTER SHOCK AT THE RE-INCARNATION OF HIS TAPED-CONFESSION--REVERBERATING LIKE THE VOICE OF DOOM AGAINST THE DEAD BUILDINGS--THE PANICKED MURDERER FORGOT HIS TARGET AND..."
ZACH-
NOVA-
KILLED-
SHUT UP!
I KILLED-
KILLED-
BLAM-BLAM-
BLAM-BLAM!
I-ZACH NOVA--
NOVA-
SHUT UP!
KILLED-
TOM SLOANE!
ZACH-
NOVA-
I-I-ZACH-
KILLED--
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
KILLED-
KILLED..
KILLED-
ZACH-NOVA-
NOVA-KILLED-
YOU'VE BEEN DESTROYED!
BLAM
BLAM
20

I HADN'T PLANNED TO USE HIS CONFESSION THIS WAY--BUT IT TOOK THE HEAT OFF MARLA! AND AS NOVA VAINLY TRIED TO DESTROY THE MOCKING, TELLTALE, DISEMBODIED VOICE... I MOVED OUT!"
BLAM!
BLAM!
YOU'RE ONLY A TAPE--YOU CAN'T EXIST ANYMORE--
I-ZACH-NOVA-
NOVA-NOVA
KILLED-KILLED--
WHAM!
NOVA-NOVA--
KILLED--KILLED
TOM SLOANE--
Y-YOU'RE-- ALIVE?! IT DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE--
-ZACH-NOVA--
NOVA-NOVA--
KILLED--KILLED--
DO I FEEL LIKE A GHOST? UH-UH, MARLA--NO MORE IMPOSSIBLE THAN THAT THE TAPE-RECORDED VOICE OF NOVA STILL LIVES! COME--LET ME SHOW YOU!
CONTINUED ON 38R PAGE FOLLOWING.
21

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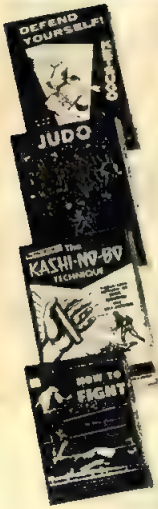

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LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE S-345 EXTRA

Dear Editor:

By the time you, the editor, get this, the "big change" in the *Batman* strip that's been heralded for quite some time will have been put into effect. My reason for offering the following speculations (on what the change will *not* be) for print is that I feel it will be worthwhile to see a remembrance of what is about to become the "old" *Batman* among constant reminders of the "changed" *Batman*.

By now, Editor Schwartz has no doubt become the victim of smart remarks from organized fandom such as, "Since Schwartz is the editor, *Batman* readers have come to expect a change in format of the strip every five years—and they're getting one!" The motivation for this change—whatever it may be—is doubtlessly justified, and it's not up to us to question it. One thing we can be sure of is that the change will *not* bring stories out of the usual Schwartz-edited style.

The Schwartz method of putting together a comic never underestimates the sophistication of that comic's readership. With it, the assumption that the comic must—and will—appeal to the more intellectual and more mature reader is second-nature. You, Mr. Schwartz, will *not* forget that it is this readership that will decide the fate of the latest version of *Batman*.

To appeal to your comic-reader "intelligentsia", you have always strived to present *realism* in your publications. Of course, *total* realism in a comic magazine of the super-hero genre is impossible. It can only be realism within the context of the format of the strip or magazine itself. That is, the concept of realism in super-hero comic magazines predisposes that it will be a *limited* realism; restricted to as realistic dialogue and realistic characterizations as possible, and always taking into consideration the strange circumstances of super-heroism. Super-hero comic magazine fiction, like its parent fiction forms, *science* fiction and *mystery* fiction, requires, to a degree, a *suspension of disbelief*. Your success with the mature reader has been the result of giving him mature story-lines in which as much realism as can be permitted by circumstance is believably incorporated into the story (or story-lines which do not, on the other hand, use the "suspension of disbelief" requirement as a cop-out).

With that in mind, I feel that Scott Gibson's contentions (*Batman's Hot-Line*, issue #392) about *Batman's* "change" *not* being patterned after Diana (*Wonder Woman*) Prince's can be given a bit of validity by some further contentions and assumptions of my own. *Batman* will *not* give up his crime-fighting identity. The more obvious reasons are: (1) *Green Arrow's* already toying with *that* notion, and there are far too many similarities between the two characters as it is; (2) to reject *Batman*. Bruce Wayne would need sufficient motivation, none of which has been provided by his present characterization. Of course, it could be accomplished out of the blue with a sensational story-line like Bruce Wayne-kills-someone-as-*Batman*-so-he-gives-up-that-identity-forever, but I know you won't, even though your present writers are very talented at sensational stories, because it would be *all* sensationalism and *no* realism, and the biggest disappointment of the year.

A less obvious reason is that *Wonder Woman* had been allowed to become TOO fantastic (over-emphasis on the necessity for "suspension of disbelief"). The refurbished *WW* is an attempt to get closer to the type of realism I've mentioned. Too bad it required chucking everything Charles Moulton and H.G. Peter had conceived out the window. By contrast, *Batman* has been bathed in comic-mag realism for years and is by no means stretching the reader's credulity. And the current consciousness of the "Golden Age" *Batman* and regular use of almost all the original characters (with the exception of perhaps *Vicki Vale*) has suggested that you are not about to reject in a sudden gesture everything that Bob Kane has established about his creation (s).

That the change *won't* concern another change-of-costume or that it *won't* involve the dropping of the Bruce Wayne identity is further removed from the realm of possibility. It just may *be*. In any event, I'm sure characters *won't* start (a) dying, (b) getting married, or (c) getting born. For *Batman* and *Robin* have been going on the same way for thirty years, and have proven themselves NOT to be transitional characters. In my spiel, I think I have exhausted almost every possibility for change there is, so...you'll REALLY have to surprise me!

—*MARTIN PASKO, Clifton, N.J.*

(Well, the change in Batman *is here...or rather, under way...and where it will continue to lead is more grist for your guessing-mill. To completely surprise* Batmaniacs *like you will take some doing...if it's not going to be our* un-*doing!*—Editor)

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

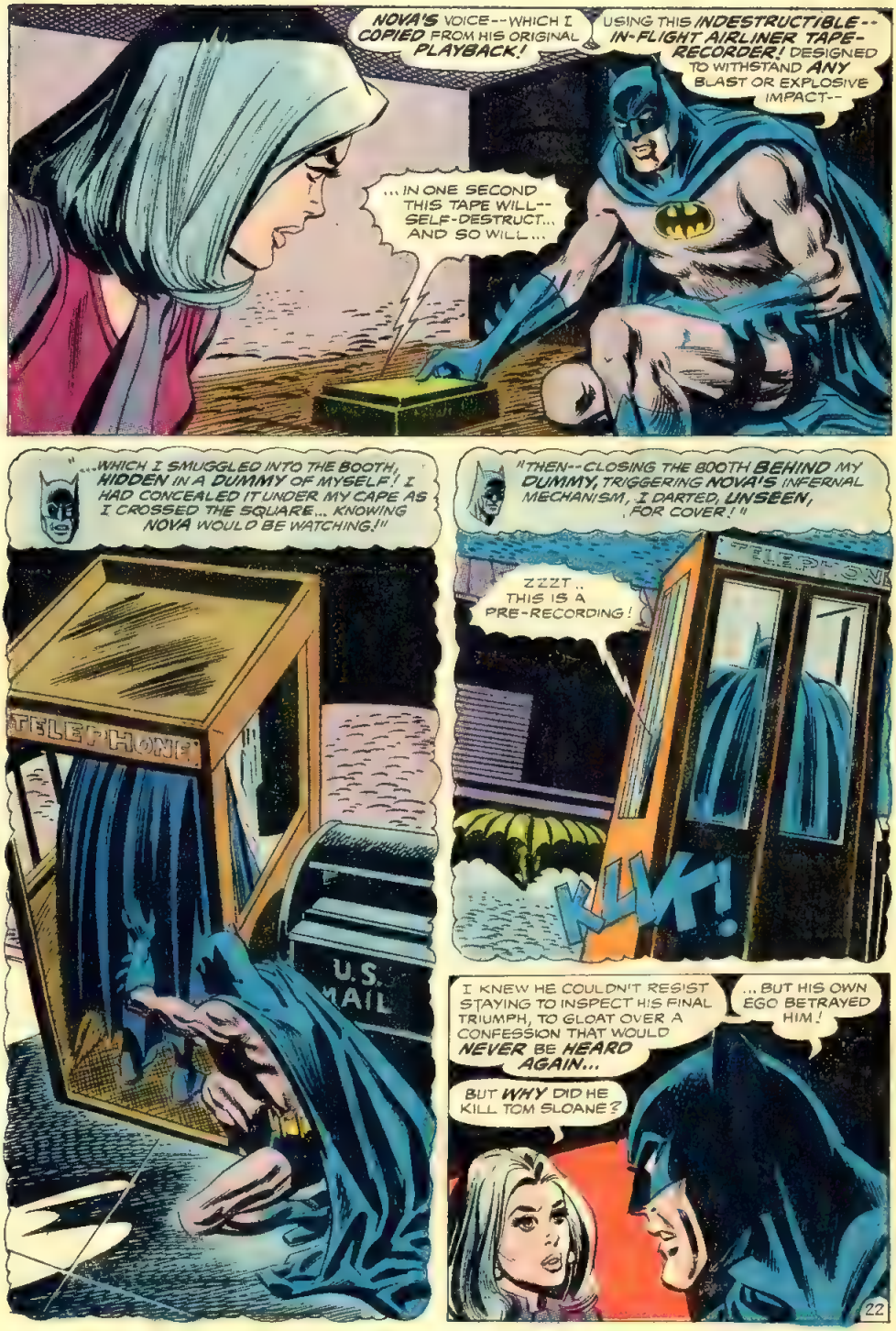
I, for one, am getting fed up with readers who continually write in pleading for *realism* in *Batman*. "Why can't we see *Batman's* eyes?" they wail. "Why do the villains use absurd death-traps on *Batman* instead of just shooting him?" "Why does *Robin* make jokes while he's fighting?" These questions are ridiculous. *Batman* appears in *comic magazines!* Remember? How much realism can be put into such an escapist form of fiction without it getting insane? As far as I can remember, comic magazines have been published only for sheer entertainment. They have been the best cheap form of fun for ages. For merely 15¢ a person can buy *Batman* and get away from the rest of the world.

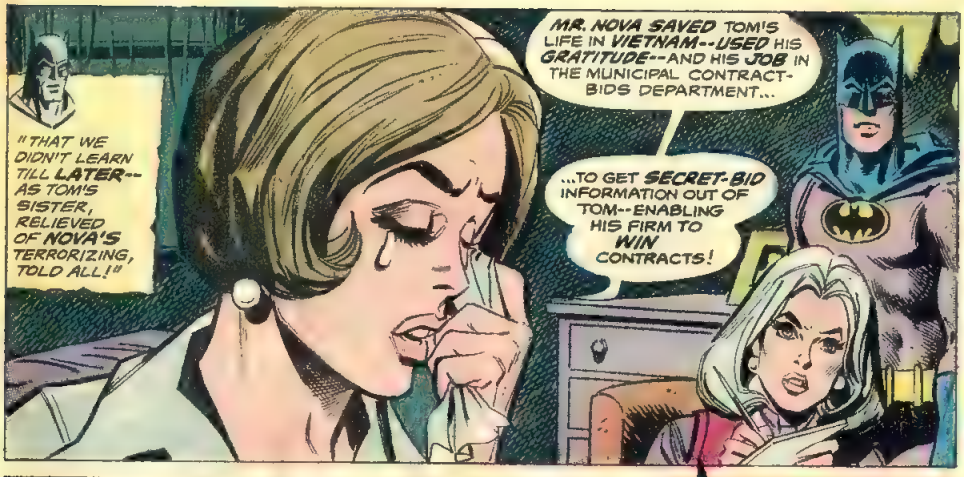
Batman is to comics readers today what "The Perils of Pauline" were to moviegoers a half century ago. In the film, poor, plagued *Pauline* was put through a procession of harrowing hazards. And it was a box-office smash hit. What would have happened if *realism* had been put into "The Perils of Pauline"? The fun would be gone! This same type of fun is still needed today, and *Batman* provides a healthy dose of it.

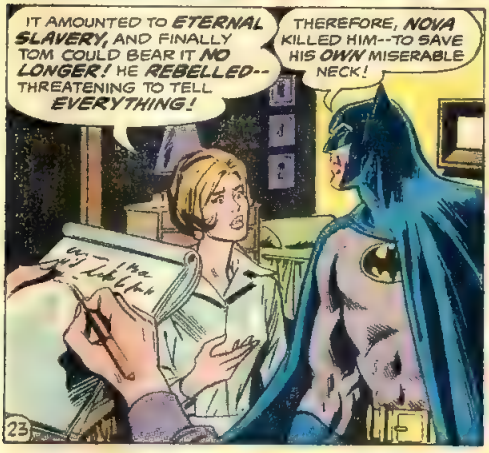
The only realism in *Batman* currently is that he is getting more and more like a *real* person. However, you must bear in mind that he is still doing unrealistic things like running around in a mask-and-cape while POWing and ZAPPing costumed criminals. But this is the way it should be. Comic magazine writers and artists should more or less thumb their noses at realism and just produce a well-done, thrilling publication like *Batman*. *Batman*, as a comic magazine feature, has always consisted of rather stereotyped, black-and-white characters, with a good-sized shot of mystery and melodrama. As long as it remains thus, I will be a loyal and dedicated fan.

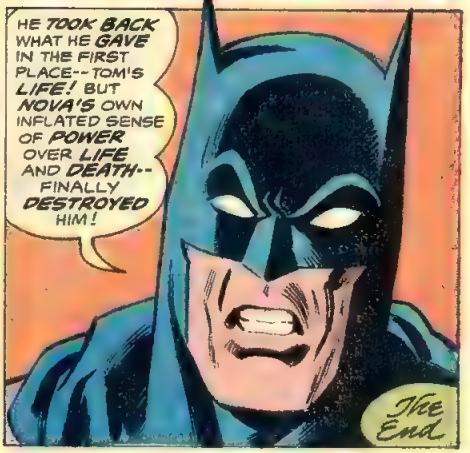
—*STEVE BEERY, Alma, Mich.*

(In some of our more recent Batman *stories there's been more stress on* Bruce Wayne, *the real man, than on* Batman, *the* un-*real hero. Reader comments are invited on the advisability of continuing along this line.*—Editor)


NOVA'S VOICE--WHICH I COPIED FROM HIS ORIGINAL PLAYBACK!
USING THIS INDESTRUCTIBLE--IN-FLIGHT AIRLINER TAPE-RECORDER! DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND ANY BLAST OR EXPLOSIVE IMPACT--
...IN ONE SECOND THIS TAPE WILL--SELF-DESTRUCT... AND SO WILL...
"...WHICH I SMUGGLED INTO THE BOOTH, HIDDEN IN A DUMMY OF MYSELF! I HAD CONCEALED IT UNDER MY CAPE AS I CROSSED THE SQUARE... KNOWING NOVA WOULD BE WATCHING!"
TELEPHONE
U.S. MAIL
"THEN--CLOSING THE BOOTH BEHIND MY DUMMY, TRIGGERING NOVA'S INFERNAL MECHANISM, I DARTED, UNSEEN, FOR COVER!"
ZZZT.. THIS IS A PRE-RECORDING!
KLYK!
I KNEW HE COULDN'T RESIST STAYING TO INSPECT HIS FINAL TRIUMPH, TO GLOAT OVER A CONFESSION THAT WOULD NEVER BE HEARD AGAIN...
...BUT HIS OWN EGO BETRAYED HIM!
BUT WHY DID HE KILL TOM SLOANE?


"THAT WE DIDN'T LEARN TILL LATER--AS TOM'S SISTER, RELIEVED OF NOVA'S TERRORIZING, TOLD ALL!"
MR. NOVA SAVED TOM'S LIFE IN VIETNAM--USED HIS GRATITUDE--AND HIS JOB IN THE MUNICIPAL CONTRACT-BIDS DEPARTMENT...
...TO GET SECRET-BID INFORMATION OUT OF TOM--ENABLING HIS FIRM TO WIN CONTRACTS!


IT AMOUNTED TO ETERNAL SLAVERY, AND FINALLY TOM COULD BEAR IT NO LONGER! HE REBELLED--THREATENING TO TELL EVERYTHING!
THEREFORE, NOVA KILLED HIM--TO SAVE HIS OWN MISERABLE NECK!
23


HE TOOK BACK WHAT HE GAVE IN THE FIRST PLACE--TOM'S LIFE! BUT NOVA'S OWN INFLATED SENSE OF POWER OVER LIFE AND DEATH--FINALLY DESTROYED HIM!
The End

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (Act of October 23, 1962, Section 4369, Title 39, United States Code.

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2. Mail subscriptions	782	678
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D. Free Distribution (including samples) by mail, carrier or other means:	346	346
E. Total Distribution (Sum of C and D):	356,128	345,974
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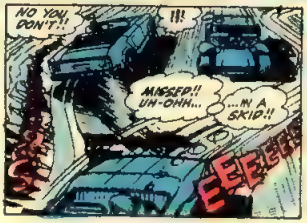

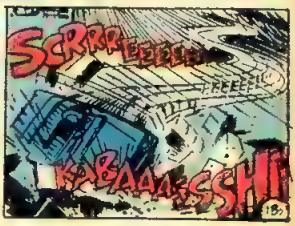

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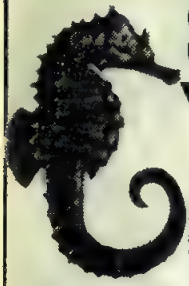

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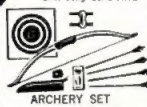
Sell Only 8 Boxes

GENERAL ELECTRIC RADIO BASE STATION
Sell Only 18 Boxes

BIKE SPEEDOMETER
Sell Only 6 Boxes

200 POWER TELESCOPE
Sell Only 12 Boxes

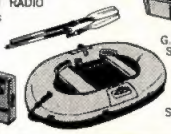
8-TRANSISTOR POCKET RADIO
Sell Only 6 Boxes


ARCHERY SET
Sell Only 6 Boxes

G.E. PHONOGRAPH
Sell Only 12 Boxes

COX DUNE BUGGY
Sell Only 10 Boxes

KODAK INSTAMATIC CAMERA OUTFIT
Sell Only 8 Boxes


TWO-MAN RUBBER BOAT
Sell Only 26 Boxes

CORSAIR PLANE SET
Sell Only 8 Boxes

PORTABLE TV SET
Sell Only 44 Boxes

DYMO LABELMAKER KIT
Sell Only 6 Boxes

FOLKTUNE WOOD GUITAR
Sell Only 12 Boxes

DELUXE MONOPOLY
Sell Only 6 Boxes

BIKE GENERATOR LIGHT SET
Sell Only 6 Boxes

SUPER SPORT WRIST WATCH
Sell Only 8 Boxes

GENERAL ELECTRIC STEREO PHONOGRAPH
Sell Only 30 Boxes

TRANSISTOR TAPE RECORDER
Sell Only 12 Boxes

OVERNIGHT SLEEPING BAG
Sell Only 7 Boxes

BALLERINA JEWEL BOX
Sell Only 7 Boxes

3 SPEED WEDGE BICYCLE
Sell Only 36 Boxes

HI-RISER FUN BIKE
Sell Only 24 Boxes

ELECTRIC BUILD-IT SET
Sell Only 7 Boxes

PICK THE PRIZES you'd like to have! Then join the Olympic Sales Club and see how easy it is to get these and other Famous Name Prizes! Or, keep **BIG CASH PROFITS** if you'd rather, **$1.05** for every box you sell! You get prizes or profits **AT ABSOLUTELY NO COST TO YOU.**

■ **ALL YOU DO** is sell Olympic's beautiful Everyday Selections — the lovely new Olympic All-Occasion Card and Note Ensemble for 1970, the All-Birthday Assortment, popular fast selling stationery assortments, smart gift wrappings and attractive gifts. Wherever you call, people will be thrilled with the new Olympic line — and the price of just $2.95 a box will make sales a snap! Sell enough boxes to get the prize you select, or keep $1.05 for each box sold.

■ **TO JOIN THE CLUB,** fill in and mail the postcard. No postage is required! We'll send you — **ABSOLUTELY FREE** — the Olympic All-Occasion Sales Kit, Membership Card and **FREE PRIZE CATALOG.** You pay nothing! You owe nothing! Just show your sales kit to prospects — and start taking orders! Don't wait.

BE FIRST IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD — JOIN OLYMPIC NOW!

OLYMPIC SALES CLUB, INC., Dept. 70NC1, Windsor Locks, Conn. 06096

CUT OUT • FILL IN • MAIL NOW • NO STAMP NEEDED

FOLD on dotted line

SEAL (paste, staple or tape)

FROM (PRINT CLEARLY)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

FIRST CLASS
Permit No. 66
Windsor Locks
Connecticut

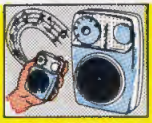
BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN U.S.

Postage Will Be Paid By

OLYMPIC SALES CLUB, Inc.
DEPT. 70NC1
WINDSOR LOCKS
CONNECTICUT 06096

OLYMPIC

COMPLETE FISHING OUTFITS


TRANSISTOR RADIO

BASKETBALL & GOAL

CROQUET SET

GUITAR-AMP COMBO

WRIST WATCHES

VOLLEYBALL SET

GIRL'S TRAVEL CASE

SWIM SET

TAPE RECORDER

SLEEPING BAGS

30-POWER TELESCOPE

COMPLETE ARCHERY SETS

APOLLO-SATURN MODEL

CHEMISTRY SETS

SPORT BIKES

POLAROID CAMERA

JR. TYPEWRITER

MICROSCOPE SETS

FOUR PLAYER BADMINTON

FLASH CAMERA OUTFITS

I sold over 500 packs and earned a bicycle.
David Peterson
Michigan

Customers like American Seeds. That's why it's so easy to sell them.
Gloria Forsyth
Florida

I've earned three prizes and money. American Seeds are great.
Dan Bullard
Washington

MAKE MONEY
GET PRIZES
with Fast Selling American Seeds

Take your choice of 100 wonderful prizes. You can earn as many as you want. Most prizes shown here and many more in our Big Prize Book are given WITHOUT COST for selling just one 48-pack order of American Vegetable and Flower Seeds at 25¢ a pack. Some of the larger prizes require more sales or extra money as explained in the Big Prize Book.

Send NO MONEY, We Trust You

Everybody wants American Seeds. They're fresh and ready to grow. You'll sell them quickly to family, friends and neighbors. Many boys and girls sell their packs in one day. You can too — and get your prize at once. Or, if you want money instead of a prize, keep $4.00 for every 48-pack order you sell.

USE THESE COUPONS ONLY

To order your seeds, fill out one of *these* coupons and mail in an envelope to:

AMERICAN SEED CO.
Dept. 032
Lancaster, Pa. 17604
OUR 52nd YEAR

MAIL ONE COUPON TODAY
Give the Other to a Friend

AMERICAN SEED CO., Dept. 032 Lancaster, Pa. 17604

Please send me your Big Prize Book and one order of 48 packs of American Seeds. I'll sell them at 25¢ a pack, send you the money and choose my prize. Send seeds checked.

☐ All Flower Seeds ☐ Mixed Vegetable and Flower Seeds

Name_____

Address_____

Town_____ State_____ Zip Code_____

AMERICAN SEED CO., Dept. 032 Lancaster, Pa. 17604

Please send me your Big Prize Book and one order of 48 packs of American Seeds. I'll sell them at 25¢ a pack, send you the money and choose my prize. Send seeds checked.

☐ All Flower Seeds ☐ Mixed Vegetable and Flower Seeds

Name_____

Address_____

Town_____ State_____ Zip Code_____

EXTRA!

$3,000 GIVEN AWAY in our Promptness Contest in addition to the prizes and money you earn selling seeds.

Complete information is sent with your Big Prize Book and Seeds.

SAVE FOR COLLEGE or SPEND IT NOW!

FLATTERMANN